

Washington Update January 14, 2004

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1. Washington State Information for Local Health Departments on BSE

On December 23, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory identified a cow from the Yakima Valley that has repeatedly tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or "mad cow disease." Confirmatory testing will be performed in Britain, but the assumption is that the animal will be confirmed to have BSE. This would be the first case of BSE in the U.S. For more information, contact George Hardy at <mailto:ghardy@ASTHO.org>.

2. BSE: Surveillance, Containment & Control

In context of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration outlined its objectives in the "Report to Congress: Testing for Rapid Detection of Adulteration of Food." To read the complete report, visit http://www.fda.gov/oc/bioterrorism/report_congress.html.

3. S & T and Technical Support Working Group Award First Contract

The Science and Technology division and the Technical Support Working Group (TSWG) awarded a contract to North Carolina State University (NCSU) on December 15 for the development of the next generation of structural fire fighting personal protective equipment, which will include chemical and biological agent protection. To learn more, contact Darla Tomes at Darla.Tomes@dhs.gov.

4. Influenza-Associated Deaths Reported Among Children Aged Less Than 18 Years

Forty-two influenza-associated deaths among children aged less than 18 years have been reported to CDC since October. All patients had the influenza virus infection detected by rapid antigen testing or other laboratory testing methods. This report describes preliminary findings based on data provided from multiple states, as of December 17, 2003. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm52d1219a1.htm>.

5. Job Opening: Environmental Health Policy Analyst

The American Public Health Association seeks a Policy Analyst to conduct research and policy analysis on issues related to public health and the environment. This position will also be responsible for overseeing the annual development of the policies and position

papers of the Association. For the complete job description, visit <http://apha.jobcontrolcenter.com/jobdetail.cfm?job=1839077&keywords=>.

6. NAEMSE Invites EMS Educators to Participate in SEERP

The National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are currently in the process of conducting the State of EMS Education Research Project (SEERP). The purpose of SEERP is to collect information, which will examine, quantify, and describe the current state of EMS education in the United States. EMS instructors and EMS schools across the United States were invited to participate in this project. The deadline to complete the online survey is February 8th, 2004. For more information, contact William Bake at (412) 429-9550 or e-mail at william.bake@naemse.org.

7. Simulator 'Stan' Suffers All Abuse to Train Doctors and Medics

Stan, a lifelike medical-training simulator that can suffer the effects of nerve gas, bleed, react to injections of medicine or complain like a human, has helped train physicians and nurses for years. But now Stan short for Standard Man will be used to train military medics and first-responder crews who would react to a biological terrorist attack. To learn more, visit <http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/democrat/news/local/7623510.htm>.

8. E9-1-1 Institute Honors Awards

On February 24, 2003, the E9-1-1 Institute and the E9-1-1 Congressional Caucus will co-sponsor the E9-1-1 Institute Honors Awards. The deadline for submitting nominations is January 16, 2004. To request a nomination form, contact Erica Orange at (202) 742-4274 or erica.orange@e-copernicus.com.

9. EMS Week 2004

Emergency Medical Services Week 2004, which is set for May 16-22, will bring together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of the medical "front line." The theme of this year's EMS Week is "EMS: There When You Need Us." For more information, visit <http://www.acep.org/emsweek>.

10. NASEMSD Offers Mentoring Program for Members

With support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the NASEMSD offers a mentoring program that pairs new State Directors with Veteran Directors to provide guidance and mentoring on an ongoing and as needed basis. The program supports travel for optional site visits. For more information, contact NASEMSD Program Advisor Stephen Hise at 623-434-5489 or e-mail hise@nasemsd.org.

11. Upcoming Event

Ambulance Condition Codes Conference, February 4, 2004, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD. For more information, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/events/event.asp?id=70>.